CLAIMS

1.   1.   A method of recording data, comprising:

2   establishing a scheduled start time to start recording the data;

3   recording the data, the recording starting at a time prior to the scheduled start

4   time; and

5   responsive to a command to play the recorded data from a beginning, playing

6   the recorded data starting with data recorded at the scheduled start

7   time.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   responsive to receiving a command during playback of the data, playing back

3   at least a portion of the data recorded prior to the scheduled start time.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the recording step comprises the step of:

2   recording the data onto a random-access recording medium.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2   displaying a counter indicating a time base for the recorded data.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the counter counts a time elapsed since

2   the scheduled start time.

1   6.   The method of claim 4, wherein the counter counts data recorded between

2   the record start and the scheduled start time as negative time.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2   displaying a user interface allowing selection of a record start time prior to the

3   scheduled start time;

4   wherein the recording step starts recording at the selected record start time.

1   8.   A digital video recorder (DVR) for digitally recording video data,

2   comprising:

3   a random-access recording medium;

4   an input for receiving the video data;

5   a processor for controlling the operation of the DVR; and

6   a program logic memory for storing program logic modules for execution by

7   the processor, the modules comprising:

8   a module for establishing a scheduled start time to start recording the

9   video data to the recording medium;

10   a module for recording the video data on the recording medium, the

11   recording starting at a time prior to the scheduled start time; and

12   a module for playing back the recorded data responsive to a command

13   received by the DVR, the playback starting with the data recorded

14   at the scheduled start time.

1   9.   The DVR of claim 8, wherein the modules further comprise:

2   a module for playing back at least a portion of the video data recorded prior to

3   the scheduled start time responsive to a command received during

4   playback of the recorded video data.

1   10.   The DVR of claim 8, wherein the modules further comprise:

2   a module for displaying a user interface allowing selection of a recording start

3   time prior to the scheduled start time;

4   wherein the module for recording the video data starts recording at the

5   selected recording start time.

1   11.   The DVR of claim 10, wherein the modules further comprise:

2   a module for displaying a graphical indication that a recording start time prior

3   to the scheduled start time is selected.

1   12.   The DVR of claim 8, wherein the modules further comprise:

2   a module for displaying a counter counting a time base for the recorded video

3   data.

1   13.   The DVR of claim 12, wherein the counter counts a time elapsed since the

2   scheduled start time.

1   14.   The DVR of claim 12, wherein the counter counts the time base of data

2   recorded between the record start and the scheduled start time as negative time.

1   15.   The DVR of claim 8, further comprising:

2   a channel guide database operatively coupled to the processor for storing

3   channel guide data, wherein the scheduled start time is established

4   responsive to the channel guide data.

1   16.   The DVR of claim 15, wherein the channel guide data identifies programs

2   and further comprising:

3   a criteria database operatively coupled to the processor for storing criteria for

4   selecting one or more of the programs identified by the channel guide

5   data, wherein the scheduled start time is established responsive to the

6   one or more programs identified by the criteria database.

1   17.   A computer program product comprising:

2   a computer-usable medium having computer-readable code embodied therein

3   for controlling a digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR adapted to

4   receive video data, the computer-readable code comprising:

5   a module for establishing a scheduled time to start recording the video

6   data;

7   a module for recording the video data starting at a time prior to the

8   scheduled start time; and

9   a module for playing back the recorded data responsive to a command

10   received by the DVR, the playback starting with the data recorded

11   at the scheduled start time.

1   18.   The computer program product of claim 17, the computer-readable code

2   further comprising:

3   a module for playing back at least a portion of the video data recorded prior to

4   the scheduled start time responsive to a command received during

5   playback of the recorded video data.

1   19.   The computer program product of claim 17, the computer-readable code

2   further comprising:

3   a module for displaying a user interface allowing selection of a recording start

4   time prior to the scheduled start time;

5   wherein the module for recording the video data starts recording at the

6   selected recording start time.

1   20.   The computer program product of claim 19, the computer-readable code

2   further comprising:

3   a module for displaying a graphical indication that a recording start time prior

4   to the scheduled start time is selected.

1   21.   The computer program product of claim 17, the computer-readable code

2   further comprising:

3   a module for displaying a counter counting a time base for the recorded video

4   data.

1   22.   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the counter counts a

2   time elapsed since the scheduled start time.

1   23.   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the counter counts

2   the time base of data recorded between the record start and the scheduled start time as

3   negative time.